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Source: *The Journal of Race Development*, Vol. 2, No. 2 (Oct., 1911), pp. 210-214

Published by:

Stable URL: <http://www.jstor.org/stable/29737910>

Accessed: 17/07/2014 09:23

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INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR INTER- RACIAL GOOD WILL (EXTRACT)

By Edwin D. Mead

(Address at the Universal Races Congress, London, July 29, 1911)

In the United States we have of course had special societies to deal with our two great racial problems, those concerning the Negro and the Indians. Professor Du Bois, who visits Europe this summer, represents the National Association for the Welfare of Colored People, which is the most recently organized of various societies which have defined their purposes in similar terms, and some of which still exist. . . . The Constitution League of the United States, in which Mr. John E. Milholland, almost as much at home here in London as in New York, has been the most active force, is another American agency which has been earnestly devoted to fighting the political oppressions and discriminations to which the Negroes in the South are still subjected. Our Anti-Imperialist League, organized to oppose the policy of our government in the Philippines, and of which Mr. Moorfield Storey is also the president, has become in very high degree, by the exigencies of its problem, a kind of Aborigines Protection Society; as it has also been led to consider the problems of imperialism, which is always accompanied by injustice and tyranny toward weaker races, exercised by other governments than our own. There are various organizations among our Negroes themselves concerned with the sufferings and struggles of their race in America. We have had for many years an Indian Rights Association; and for twenty years there has been held at Lake Mohonk an annual Conference upon our duty to the Indians, attended by many of our best and ablest men, and resulting in immense improvement. This Conference has in recent years been so expanded in its scope as to take in

the problems arising from our relations to our so-called "dependencies"—the Philippines here playing of course the most important part. There is no place in the United States better fitted, by the great traditions created by Conferences on International Arbitration, to become a centre for conferences on inter-racial justice than Lake Mohonk. Its present autumn Conferences upon the rights of our Indians and the people of our dependencies might profitably be expanded into conferences of this broader scope, with no prejudice, but only gain, to the special purposes which called them into being.

It is possible, however, that the centre for this broader work in the United States will be elsewhere. There has been started at Clark University in Worcester, Massachusetts, during the last two years, the most intelligent and well considered movement known to me in all the world bearing upon the particular problems of this Congress. The object of the Congress has been stated to be the discussion of the relation of the peoples of the West and those of the East, between so-called white and so-called colored peoples. I have been speaking chiefly of the relations of white and colored races, viewing the colored races as those coming within the purview of such students and reformers as those constituting the Aborigines Protection Society. To the discussion of such relations the Clark University Conferences will in considerable measure be devoted; but they will also be devoted to what may be called more specifically the relations between the peoples of the West and those of the East—and to those relations the two Conferences already held have been devoted. The president of Clark University, as is well known to most scholars present here, is Dr. G. Stanley Hall, whom I have already mentioned as the President of our Congo Reform Association; and I think that his experience in the work of that Association has had much to do with his interest in the founding of the Clark University Conferences, in whose organization his able and devoted associate has been Professor George H. Blakeslee of the University. The first of these Conferences was held in the autumn of 1909, and concerned itself with the relations of

America to the Far East, chiefly China and Japan. The second Conference was held in the autumn of 1910, and concerned itself with the Near East. Better thought out and better carried out programs than those of these two Conferences have seldom been seen; and they mark the beginning of a new era for us in the United States touching the scientific study of Eastern peoples and just dealings with them. Perhaps the best outcome of these Conferences, which are to be made regular, has been the establishment of a quarterly journal, *THE JOURNAL OF RACE DEVELOPMENT*, in which many of the papers read at the Conferences have been printed, which is by far the best publication in this field which we have ever seen in America, and certainly one of the best organs in the world of the great movement which has brought us together here. With the Mohonk Autumn Conferences developing as they are developing, and with the institution of these Clark University Conferences, I feel the outlook for thorough and worthy attention in the United States to inter-racial problems to be most promising; and the establishment with us of an efficient American society, corresponding in some sort to the British Aborigines Protection Society, is only a question of tomorrow or the next day. . . .

A primary function of a movement like the present one is to cultivate good understanding and good will between all peoples near and far. We have a noisy and pestiferous little group in America whose regular business seems to be to stir up suspicion and hatred of the people of Japan. You have a larger group in England whose similar vocation is to sow seeds of enmity with the German people. . . . the source of most of the troubles with which we are coping here is ignorance. Dr. John H. DeForest, in his impressive pamphlet on "American Ignorance of Oriental Languages," has startlingly shown the serious practical dangers menacing us in the United States from our ignorance of the speech and some of the simplest usages of our Japanese brothers. . . .

I speak of the international organization which I propose as one in behalf of inter-racial justice; but I mean more than that—I mean that it shall also deal with the prob-

lem of how backward races may best be assisted in their upward progress and development, and how men of all races may have better personal acquaintance with each other.

Let us consider this Universal Races Congress no isolated or final gathering, but simply the first of a series of Universal Races Congresses, bi-ennial or tri-ennial, which shall go regularly on until the day of inter-racial justice and fraternity dawns. Let us too have our International Bureau of Inter-Racial Justice at London or at Berne; and let us who are here go home to Germany, to France, to Italy, to India, to China, to America, each group pledged to organize in its own country a national society of Inter-racial Justice, with its annual National Congress. The material for organization is abundant. I see here in your circular twenty pages of names of men upon the General Committee of this Congress. There are nearly two hundred names from the United States alone. Here is already, if these will so resolve, an American Society of Inter-racial Justice. Let them so resolve; and so let the delegates from France and Belgium and Germany and India resolve. The second Universal Races Congress here in London or in Paris or wherever it may be, would then be largely a representative Congress made up in great measure of regular delegates from national societies. Each national society should have its bureau and its publications, and of such national publications there should be the completest interchange; while the central international bureau should correlate the various national activities and keep each particular effort in influential touch with all the rest.

There is every reason why the international effort inaugurated here in London today should achieve quick and decisive success. It certainly will do it if we here so highly resolve. Let us resolve that every nation here represented shall organize a national society this year, and hold a national congress next year; and let us plan for a second international Congress three years from now. I wish that that 1914 Congress might be held in the United States. That is to be with us a noteworthy international year. We are then to celebrate the centennial of peace between the United States

and Great Britain. We shall invite the International Peace Congress to hold its session with us that year; and the Inter-parliamentary Union will be similarly invited. It will be a good year for the thoughtful men of the world to confer on American soil upon this problem of the right relation of races, which is the cardinal phrase of the general problem of international fraternity and peace. We can tell you in America of noteworthy advance in the solution of our own great race problems. There has been almost a revolution in the last generation in our dealing with our Indian population; and there is at this time a movement hardly less than revolutionary going on in the minds of the best Southern white men touching the Negroes. In the whole history of civilization there has been no more remarkable advance than that of the Negroes in our Southern States since emancipation. The story in industry, in property and in education is the same. . . . The wrongs to our Southern Negroes, political and social, are still flagrant and intolerable; but I am emphasizing here the elements of hope and genuine advance. I believe that in the next decade the new humanity which is becoming so pervasive will achieve no greater triumphs than in the field of inter-racial justice; and it will do this the more rapidly and effectibely as we all make the world our parish and work together internationally.

The most impressive volume which has come to my table this last year is that great volume of 1500 pages, *La Vie Internationale*, issued by the International Bureau at Brussels, and giving lists and accounts of the world's various international organizations up to date, in the fields of politics, science, literature, art and social affairs, with details of their organization and the approaching congresses. It is a potent picture of the broad international web which has already been woven and of the thousand shuttles which, with ever accelerating speed, are pushing on the process. There is no other lack in those eloquent pages so conspicuous as the lack of record of adequate international organizations of the imperative many-sided cause which is represented here. I hail this Congress as a pledge that that deficiency will now be met, and that this commanding international duty will be internationally fulfilled.